

To Quin Shea from Harold Weisberg re C.A. 75-1996 appeals

7/24/78

Attached is a copy of a file divider from the OPR's files. It reads "J. Edgar HOOVER OFFICIAL + CONFIDENTIAL FILE." It is a divider from the King part of his files. (I had mislaid it and this.)

The work of the OPR in its examination of FBI records was done inside the FBI building, in special areas set up by the FBI for that purpose.

To enable the OPR to do its work the FBI physically transported what it regarded as relevant files to this work area of OPR.

In time this coincides with the earlier stages of the litigation.

Prior to obtaining these file markings I knew of the existence of Hoover personal and confidential files, so-called.

I made specific request for the searching of the Hoover files as well as of other files other than BERNARD MURKIN of the FBI. I was told there are no such files, by John Harting and others of the FBI, including Chuck Matthews of OLC.

That the FBI located and provided the files represented by this divider establishes that as of the time it was processing records for C.A. 75-1996 the FBI was aware of the existence of these records and of their relevance.

As of today the FBI has not provided any records from any of these other files. I have no reason to believe that even after I identified these other files the FBI ever made any search of them.

I have had occasion to review other OPR records and the subpoena served on the Memphis District Attorney, from whom OPR states it received Memphis Police Department records relating to the assassination of Dr. King.

While the subpoena appears to be a dodge phoned up by Memphis officials who are not strangers to me and is exceptional in its vagueness, it itemizes no police radio log transcripts. Where serial numbers are given for the Memphis Police Dept. (MPD) records subpoenaed these numbers would appear to preclude the period of the MPD logs.

In C.A. 75-1996, as I have called to the FBI's attention, it has provided its own transcripts of the police broadcasts of a period later than the moment of the crime but not of the time of the crime. The OPR report cites the MPD logs of the time of the crime and does not account for obtaining the logs under subpoena. I am thus led to believe that the FBI, quite possibly in the Memphis Field Office (MFO) has copies of all log transcripts.

It is also possible that these transcripts are not in the MURKIN files, to which this search appears to have been limited despite my immediate protest of this in court, as well as personally to the FBI and AUSA Dugan.

I recall no reference to a transcript of the log of the sheriff's broadcasts. This has great relevance because the walkie-talkie broadcast of the finding of the package that included the so-called murder rifle was by a sheriff's lieutenant, Judson Ghormley. The time of the broadcast establishes the time by which this package was found as well as part of the chain of possession. I am therefore led to believe that in some file from which it can retrieve the FBI has a log of the sheriff's broadcasts and continues to withhold them. One possible explanation is that the time is not consistent with the official accounting of the finding of the package (including by OPR) and of the crime. Jim Lesar will confirm my statement of possible motive in this withholding and refusal to search other files because I interviewed at least two relevant witnesses, one Ghormley, with Jim present and because Ghormley also testified at the evidentiary hearing. Lesar Payne of Newsday was with me five years after my initial interviews when I reinterviewed one of these witnesses.

OPR has not
just Sheriff's broadcast

J. EDGAR HOOVER
OFFICIAL + CONFIDENTIAL
FILE